



Our response to Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

- The proposal for the CAA framework arose from a Local Government White Paper, entitled *Strong and Prosperous Communities*.
- Local public services will be held collectively accountable for their impact on better services
- CAA will report on how well the £180 billion that is currently spent on the delivery of public services each year.
- The CAA will look across councils, health bodies, police forces, fire and rescue services and others responsible for local public services, with responsibility for working in partnership to tackle the challenges within communities.
- CAA aims to be a catalyst for better local outcomes; source of independent information and assurance; independent evidence base for central government; way of rationalising and coordinating inspection (monitoring).
- Therefore, the CAA focuses on outcomes and how well local public bodies coordinate with each other, across sectors and with their communities.
- Improved transparency and accountability through two components:
- Area assessment – how well local public services are working and scope for improvement
- Organisational assessments – of individual public bodies, specifically councils and fire and rescue services. Will combine the use of resources and managing performance
- The CAA aims to come into effect in April 2009. The CAA Framework will be finalised for publication by December 2008.
- The first CAA reports will be published in November 2009.
- The CAA will try to draw on information providers already use to self-assess and manage the services they deliver.
- In the consultation document, the CAA notes that 'in looking at outcomes we will pay particular attention to those at most risk of disadvantage or inequality, including those whose circumstances make them vulnerable.
- CAA will take locally agreed priorities in the Local Area Agreements as its starting point.
- Starting with the LAA, the CAA will assess progress against area priorities and ambitions set out in the Sustainable Community Strategies.
- The CAA document notes a number of times that it will pay particular attention to those who are at risk of disadvantage or inequality. It is not clear if the CAA recognises geographic inequality.
- How will the CAA measure service provision aimed at addressing targets outside of the NIS?